

Education Cabinet

Kentucky Board of Education

Department of Education

702 KAR 5:080. Bus drivers' qualifications, responsibilities, and training.

(Amendment)

RELATES TO: KRS 156.160, 189.540, 49 C.F.R. 382.101-382.605

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 156.160, 189.540

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 156.160 requires the Kentucky Board of Education to promulgate administrative regulations relating to the transportation of children to and from school and to medical inspections and other matters deemed relevant to the protection of the physical welfare and safety of public school children.

KRS 189.540 requires the state board to promulgate administrative regulations governing the design and operation of school buses. This administrative regulation establishes the qualifications and responsibilities of the school bus driver.

Section 1. (1) A local board of education shall require annual medical examination of each school bus driver or driver of a special vehicle used to transport school children to and from school and events related to the school. A district may require a school bus driver to pass a routine medical examination or a special type medical examination more often than annually at the district's expense. A current medical examination certificate (TC 94-35 and the Supplement to TC 94-35) for each school bus driver shall be retained by the district.

1 (2) The medical examination shall include tests for:

2 (a) Hearing and vision disorders;

3 (b) Emotional instability; and

4 (c) Serious medical conditions including:

5 1. Diabetes;

6 2. Epilepsy;

7 3. Heart disease; and

8 4. Other chronic or communicable diseases if indicated in the opinion of the licensed
9 medical examiner.

10 (3) The examination shall include tests for tuberculosis upon initial employment and
11 positive reactors shall be required to have further evaluations.

12 (4) A medical examination of a school bus driver shall be reported on Form TC 94-35
13 and the Supplement to TC 94-35 to the local superintendent or his designee.

14 Section 2. (1)(a) A criminal records and driving history check shall be performed
15 by a local district on school bus drivers prior to initial employment and after a break in
16 service (excluding summers).

17 (b) Employment shall be contingent upon meeting the requirements of paragraph (a) of
18 this subsection. A local board of education shall adopt policies outlining employment
19 qualifications as related to these criminal records and driving history checks.

20 (c) A school bus driver shall immediately report to the local superintendent or his
21 designee a:

22 1. Revocation of his driver's license;

23 2. Conviction for DUI/DWI;

1 3. Conviction for reckless driving; or

2 4. Citation for any moving motor vehicle violation including DUI/DWI and reckless
3 driving.

4 (2)(a) Controlled substance and alcohol use testing shall be a condition of employment
5 for anyone in a safety sensitive position, including:

6 1. School bus drivers;

7 2. School bus mechanics; and

8 3. Other safety-sensitive jobs requiring a CDL license.

9 (b) The controlled substance and alcohol use testing program shall include the following
10 tests:

11 1. Preemployment testing (controlled substance only);

12 2. Postaccident testing;

13 3. Random testing; and

14 4. Reasonable suspicion testing.

15 (c) Prospective employees who have tested positive for a controlled substance within the
16 last five (5) years shall not be considered for employment to drive a school bus or the
17 performance of safety-sensitive services related to pupil transportation.

18 (d) A school bus driver, school bus mechanic or anyone performing safety-sensitive pupil
19 transportation duties having a confirmed positive test for a controlled substance shall be
20 relieved of those duties immediately and not be eligible for reemployment for five (5)
21 years.

22 (e) A school bus driver, school bus mechanic or anyone performing safety-sensitive pupil
23 transportation duties who tests at 0.02 percent or higher on the confirmation alcohol test

1 immediately before, during, or immediately following the performance of these duties
2 shall be relieved of these duties immediately and not be eligible for reemployment in a
3 safety-sensitive position for five (5) years.

4 (f) A person shall not be employed as a school bus driver if convicted within the past five
5 (5) years of driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or any illegal drug.

6 (g) A person shall not drive a school bus unless the person is physically or mentally able
7 to operate a school bus safely and satisfactorily. If there is limitation of motion in joints,
8 neck, back, arms, legs, or other body parts, due to injury or disease that would limit the
9 driver's ability to safely perform the task of driving a school bus or performing other
10 driver responsibilities, the person shall not be employed as a school bus driver.

11 (h) A driver taking medication either by prescription or without prescription shall report
12 to the immediate supervisor and shall not drive if that medication would affect the
13 driver's ability to safely drive a school bus or perform other driver responsibilities.

14 Section 3. (1) A person shall not drive a school bus unless the person has:

15 (a) Visual acuity of at least 20/40 (Snellan) in each eye either without corrective lenses or
16 by correction with corrective lenses;

17 (b) Form field vision of not less than a total of 140 degrees; and

18 (c) The ability to recognize the colors of traffic signals and devices showing standard red,
19 green, and amber.

20 (2) A driver requiring correction by corrective lenses shall wear properly prescribed
21 corrective lenses at all times while driving.

22 Section 4. A person shall not drive a school bus whose hearing is less than 7/15 in
23 the better ear, or hearing loss is greater than forty (40) decibels if audiogram is used, for

1 conversational tones, with or without a hearing aid. A driver requiring a hearing aid shall
2 wear properly operating aids at all times while driving.

3 Section 5. A school bus driver shall be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.

4 Section 6. (1) A school bus driver shall have a current driver's license that is valid
5 in Kentucky. A school bus driver shall possess a commercial driver's license, with the
6 passenger endorsement for a school bus, which is valid in Kentucky.

7 (2)(a) Prior to acceptance into the school bus driver training program, a driver applicant
8 shall be required to demonstrate driving skills judged by a certified driver training
9 instructor to meet acceptable performance standards as outlined in "Preemployment Road
10 Test", January, 2002.

11 (b) The Preemployment Road Test Score Sheet supplied by the Department of Education
12 shall become a part of the driver's training record.

13 (c) A driver shall demonstrate the following skill levels:

- 14 1. Vehicle knowledge; and
- 15 2. Driver ability to perform steering, maneuvering, braking, use mirrors, and demonstrate
16 each of the following:
 - 17 a. Ninety (90) degree left hand turns steering technique;
 - 18 b. Ninety (90) degree right hand turns steering technique;
 - 19 c. Operating posture;
 - 20 d. Visual awareness;
 - 21 e. Backing ability using mirrors only; and
 - 22 f. Demonstration of spatial awareness.

1 Section 7. (1) Minimum training requirements to become a school bus driver shall
2 consist of the training course developed by the Kentucky Department of Education and
3 three (3) driver review, evaluation and instruction components.

4 (2)(a) A person shall not be certified to teach the school bus driver training curriculum
5 until that person has:

6 1. Satisfactorily completed a minimum of thirty-three (33) hours classroom and driving
7 instruction, conducted or approved by the Department of Education and relevant to the
8 driver training curriculum; and

9 2. Been issued an instructor's certificate by the commissioner of education.

10 (3) Instructors shall be required to renew their certificates annually by completing six (6)
11 hours of update training conducted or approved by the department.

12 (4) The training course core curriculum shall consist of the following instructional units
13 and minimum instructional times:

14 (a) Laws and regulations - two (2) hours;

15 (b) Driving fundamentals - two (2) hours;

16 (c) Care and maintenance - two (2) hours;

17 (d) Critical situations - one (1) hour;

18 (e) Incidents and emergency procedures - two (2) hours;

19 (f) Pupil management - two (2) hours;

20 (g) First aid - one (1) hour;

21 (h) Special education transportation - one (1) hour;

22 (i) Extracurricular trips - one (1) hour;

23 (j) Vehicle operations - three (3) hours;

- 1 (k) Vehicle control at speed - one (1) hour; and
- 2 (l) Bus route identification, driver review and instruction - two (2) hours.
- 3 (5) Upon successful completion of the core curriculum the school bus driver applicant
- 4 shall complete the following:
- 5 (a) Driver review I, evaluation and instruction - two (2) hours within the first five (5)
- 6 days of driving;
- 7 (b) Driver review II, evaluation and instruction - two (2) hours after not less than twenty
- 8 (20) days nor more than thirty (30) days of driving; and
- 9 (c) Driver review III evaluation and instruction - one (1) hour within three (3) to six (6)
- 10 months of completion of driver review II. Driver review III shall be done with students
- 11 on the bus.

12 Section 8. (1) Prior to the beginning of each school year, a certified driver shall

13 complete an eight (8) hour training update relevant to the curriculum prior to the

14 beginning of the school year. Each district shall be responsible for planning and

15 conducting the update based on the needs of its drivers.

16 (2) Discontinuance of driver employment and subsequent reemployment shall require the

17 driver to become requalified by a training update within a twelve (12) month period

18 following his or her certification termination date.

19 (3) A driver who does not complete the training update and recertification as required by

20 subsection (2) of this section shall be required to complete the beginning training

21 program.

22 Section 9. If an emergency makes it necessary for the driver to leave the bus while

23 pupils are on board, the driver shall:

- 1 (1) Move the bus to a safe location if possible;
- 2 (2) Stop the engine;
- 3 (3) Shift the bus to low gear, or place in neutral if automatic equipped;
- 4 (4) Set the parking brake;
- 5 (5) Remove the ignition key; and
- 6 (6) Place one (1) of the older responsible pupils in charge during the driver's absence if
- 7 appropriate.

8 Section 10. A driver shall operate the school bus at all times in a manner that
9 provides the maximum amount of safety and comfort for the pupils under the
10 circumstances.

11 Section 11. (1) A driver shall supervise the seating of the pupils on the bus. A
12 driver may assign a pupil to a specific seat on the bus.

13 (2) The driver shall make certain the seating capability of the bus has been fully utilized
14 before any pupil is permitted to stand in the bus aisle. A driver shall not permit pupils to
15 stand:

- 16 (a) In the stepwell or landing area;
- 17 (b) If the pupil would likely fall out of the bus if the emergency door were opened; or
- 18 (c) If the driver's view directly in front of the bus or to either side of the front of the bus
- 19 would be obscured.

20 (3) A driver shall report to the superintendent or a designee any overcrowded conditions
21 on the bus.

1 Section 12. (1) A driver shall transport only those pupils officially assigned to a
2 particular bus trip unless an unassigned pupil presents the driver with a written permit to
3 ride the bus trip that has been signed by the school principal or a designee.

4 (2) A driver shall not permit an assigned pupil to leave the bus at a stop other than where
5 the pupil regularly leaves the bus unless presented with a written permission signed by
6 the principal or a designee.

7 Section 13. A driver shall not transport adult employees of the board or any
8 person not employed by the board of education unless provided with written permission
9 from the district superintendent or a designee.

10 Section 14. A board of education shall develop a policy on what may or may not
11 be transported on a school bus. The policy shall include the following:

12 (1) A driver shall not knowingly permit any firearms or weapons, either operative or
13 ceremonial, to be transported on the bus. The driver shall not knowingly permit any
14 fireworks or any other explosive materials of any type to be transported on the bus; and

15 (2) A driver shall not permit to be transported on the bus:

16 (a) Any live animals, except for an animal that is to enable one to safely utilize the bus
17 transportation as documented by adequate medical evidence or a student's Individual
18 Education Plan, and that is not a risk to other bus riders [~~fowls, or reptiles~~].

19 (b) Preserved specimen that would likely frighten any pupil or cause a commotion on the
20 bus; or

21 (c) Glass objects or helium balloons.

22 (3) A driver shall not permit the transportation of any object that would block the bus
23 aisle or exits.

1 Section 15. A driver shall not permit a pupil to operate the entrance door handle
2 or any other bus control except in case of an emergency.

3 Section 16. (1) A driver shall activate the flashing amber signal lights at least 150
4 feet, if available, or a sufficient distance from a bus stop to warn motorists of the intended
5 stop.

6 (2) Once the bus comes to a complete stop, the driver shall follow the loading and
7 unloading procedure outlined in Chapter 5 of the Driver Training Instructors Manual.

8 Section 17. For safety reasons, a driver shall not permit fueling of the bus while
9 pupils are on board the bus.

10 Section 18. (1) If a pupil's conduct on the bus makes it unsafe for the bus to
11 continue on its route, the driver shall:

12 (a) Make a determination as to the potential danger to other students on the bus; and

13 (b) Take action against the student by:

14 1. Requesting that the student stop engaging in the prohibited conduct;

15 2. If feasible, sending for assistance if the student fails to comply with the driver's order
16 or request;

17 3. Ordering the student to leave the bus; or

18 4. Ejecting the pupil from the bus.

19 (2) Ejecting a pupil from the bus shall be done only in the most extreme circumstances.

20 (3) If a student has been ejected from a bus as the result of conduct specified in
21 subsection (1) of this section, the driver shall notify the immediate supervisor who shall
22 notify the appropriate district authorities, who shall subsequently notify the student's
23 parent or legal guardian according to local board policy.

Section 19. A school bus driver shall stop the bus at all places where the roadway crosses a railroad track or tracks at the grade level. The stop shall be made not less than fifteen (15) feet nor more than fifty (50) feet from the nearest track.

(1) After making the stop, the driver shall:

(a) Set the parking brake;

(b) Shift to neutral;

(c) Activate the noise abatement switch;

(d) Open the service door and driver side window; and

(e) Carefully look in each direction and listen for approaching trains before proceeding.

(2) If visibility is impaired at a crossing, after stopping the driver may allow the vehicle to roll forward to gain required visibility before proceeding.

(3) When a driver has ascertained that it is safe for the bus to cross the railroad tracks, the driver shall:

(a) Close the bus entrance door;

(b) Shift the bus gears into the range that will provide adequate power;

(c) Release the parking brake;

(d) Proceed immediately to cross the railroad tracks; and

(e) Turn the noise abatement switch off when safe to do so.

Section 20. A driver shall make a pretrip inspection of the bus safety and operating equipment each time that the bus is taken out for the transportation of pupils.

Section 21. (1) A school bus driver shall not operate the school bus at a speed in excess of the posted speed limit on any section of highways over which the bus travels.

1 (2) A driver shall not drive the school bus on any roadway at any time at a speed where
2 the conditions of the roadway, weather conditions, or other extenuating circumstances
3 would likely make it unsafe.

4 Section 22. A driver shall wear the driver's seat belt at all times that the bus is
5 operated.

6 Section 23. A stop signal arm and flashing warning lights shall be used only at
7 stops where pupils are boarding or leaving the bus.

8 Section 24. A driver shall not use tobacco products on the school bus and shall not
9 permit pupils to use tobacco products on the school bus.

10 Section 25. A driver shall signal pupils to board or leave the bus when the driver
11 has determined that any visible approaching traffic creating a substantive risk of harm has
12 come to a complete stop and is not attempting to start up or pass the bus.

13 Section 26. A driver shall not operate a school bus while under the influence of
14 alcoholic beverages or any illegal drug or other drug as provided in Section 2 of this
15 administrative regulation. A driver found under the influence of alcohol or any illegal
16 drug while on duty or with remaining driving responsibilities that same day shall be
17 dismissed from employment.

18 Section 27. A driver of a school bus shall be on the bus at all times students are
19 loading or unloading.

20 Section 28. A driver shall inspect the school bus at the completion of each bus run
21 to ensure that no students remain on the bus.

22 Section 29. Incorporation by Reference. (1) The following material is
23 incorporated by reference:

(a) Forms TC 94-35, July, 1990, and Supplement to TC 94-35, July, 1990, Division of Pupil Transportation, Department of Education;

(b) "Preemployment Road Test", January 2002, Division of Pupil Transportation, Department of Education;

(c) "Driver Trainer Instructors Manual", July 9, 1995; and

(d) "Preemployment Road Test Score Sheet", January 2002.

(2) This material may be inspected, copied, or obtained, subject to applicable copyright law, at the Division of Pupil Transportation, Department of Education, 15th Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.